REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain, all of these claims standing as rejected as indefinite under 35 USC §112.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the indefiniteness noted to hopefully obviate the rejection under 35 USC §112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 USC §103(a) over Gargrave et al. in view of Gerhart et al.

The use of graphite plugs as a lubricant for bearing surfaces has been known for many years but has not heretofore been used in the saddle of a rotary bending devices as claimed which have also been in use for many years. This is because the bearing surface of a saddle has been perceived as being subjected to extreme conditions and is required to have a long service life.

Thus, Gargrave et al. describes a plasma spray coating of molybdenum or molybenum oxide on a through hardened saddle to resist the high pressures exerted by the rocker. The machining out of a number of pockets for the graphite plugs would not be suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art as this would make the saddle less rigid and have less hardened surface area.

The mind set of those working in this field has been to make the rocker and saddle of a rigid hard steel material, particularly for long length benders. Although the saddle is not as hard as the rocker, it is still manufactured from a high strength steel and coated with a hard substantial coat.

Thus, it would run against the thinking of the designers in this field to form a

number of pockets to receive the soft graphite plugs reducing the bearing surface area.

The saddle recess surface area being reduced allow the rocker to wear away any high spots in the saddle due to the reduced surface area of metal to relieve any interferences or out of true condition of the saddle.

The use of the graphite plugs itself provides a self contained bender without a separate lubrication system. This avoids the need for maintenance or hook up of lube lines when installing the bender in a press.

Thus, claims 1-3 are urged to be patentable over the prior art of record.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 14, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

It is hereby certified that this correspondence, along with any items referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 14, 2004.

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